

Mainer Named Co-Chair of New Economic Development Commission for ME, NH, VT & NY

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WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud praised the White House announcement that Sandford Blitz of Maine has been named the Federal Co-Chairperson for the newly created Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), which was recently appropriated \$1.5 million. The NBRC was created by legislation authored by Michaud and passed into law last year. The NBRC is charged with investing in the economic development of the most distressed areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and parts of Upstate New York.

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“I have worked with Sandy Blitz for years,” said Michaud. “He knows the region and the challenges faced by each of the states in this commission. His regional knowledge and his expertise in economic development will serve Maine and the entire region extremely well. He is an outstanding pick by the President.”

“The counties that are included in the commission have suffered, and especially now, continue to suffer from chronic distress above the national averages,” said Blitz. “The NBRC will serve to provide the organizational framework, leadership, and resources to overcome such economic distress. The federal-state regional commission model has proven to be very successful at alleviating poverty, unemployment, and low per capita income.”

The NBRC’s approach to regional economic development is based on the highly successful Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) model. This effective public-private partnership model has enjoyed overwhelming bipartisan support because it works and because it has been a good investment for the American taxpayer. For example, in Fiscal Year 2005, each dollar of ARC funding leveraged \$2.57 in other public funding and \$8.46 in private funding.

“Congressman Michaud is to be congratulated for his steadfast determination to create and secure funding for this commission,” Blitz continued. “I am also very grateful for his support of my nomination to the very important position of Federal Co-Chair of the NBRC. If I am fortunate to have the Senate confirm my nomination, it will allow me to continue the work I have pursued for more than twenty-five years in various capacities; that is, to improve the economic life of the people in Maine, northern New England, and New York.”

Sandford Blitz is the founder and Principal of Emesbee Associates, where he works with public and private entities to help them secure grants and loans. From 2007-2009, he served as the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and oversaw SBA offices in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Mr. Blitz is also an adjunct professor with the University of Maine’s Department of Public Administration, specializing in economic development, intergovernmental affairs, and regional governance. For 13 years, he served as the Economic Development Representative for the Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. Mr. Blitz has also served on the Governmental Affairs Committee for the Greater Bangor Regional Chamber of Commerce since 2001, on the American Society of Public Administration since 1992, and on the Infrastructure and Transportation Task Force for the President’s Council for Sustainable Development from 1994-

96.

“If there was ever a time to get this commission off the ground it is now. This commission will help our most economically distressed areas by funding projects that will create jobs and promote business development. I am hopeful that the Senate will confirm this position soon,” said Michaud.

More information on the Northern Border Regional Commission can be found [HERE](#).

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